

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 12-25 and new claims 26-31 are pending in the application. Claims 7, 10 and 11 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Reconsideration and a withdrawal of all objections and rejections is hereby respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

1. Allowable Claims.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 19, 20, 21 and 22 are allowed, and that claims 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 would be allowable if written to overcome an objection and rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, applicant has rewritten claims 7, 10 and 11 in independent form as new claims 26, 27, and 28, respectively. Claims 8 and 9, originally dependent from claim 7, an allowable claim, which is now new claim 26, have been amended to depend from claim 26. The new claims also take into account the Examiner's objections in paragraph 2 of the office action. Claims 29-31 include the matter from allowable Claim 26, and have been added to round out the coverage of the claims.

2. The Withdrawn Claims.

Claims 4-5, 14, 17, and 24-25 are currently withdrawn.

3. Claim Objections.

Claims 7-9 and 22 have been objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner, in paragraph 2 of the office action notes that the term "body" recited in claim 7, line 2 and claim 22, line 5 should indicate that the body is

part of the nozzle. Applicant has amended the language of claim 7 (now new claim 26), and claim 22, to recite "wherein the nozzle means comprises a body . . ."

Applicant submits that the language preferred by the Examiner has been adopted. For these reasons, the claim objections to claims 7 and 22 are believed to be remedied.

4. The Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 23 as Being Obvious Over U.S. Patent 5,951,734 ("Friedel") and U.S. Patent 5,147,439 ("Ritz").

Claims 1-3, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent 5,951,734 ("Friedel") and U.S. Patent 5,147,439 ("Ritz"). This rejection is respectfully but strenuously traversed and reconsideration and a withdrawal thereof are hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant's present invention is not obvious over the cited references relied upon by the Examiner.

The independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to more particularly articulate the Applicant's present invention. Claims 1 and 23 now recite each nozzle means comprising an outlet port, wherein said oven air and said compressed air are combined in said nozzle means prior to exiting said outlet port. The invention is recited referring to the combination of compressed air and oven air which is accomplished with the present invention. The combining of the oven air and compressed air in the nozzle means is not taught, suggested or disclosed by the references relied upon by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected the Applicant's claims, citing two references which the Examiner seeks to combine. The Examiner contends that Friedel discloses a

system which includes a furnace with an internal heating chamber 14. The Examiner also contends that the furnace includes electric resistance heating elements 16 which provide radiant heat to a work piece located therein. The Examiner contends that the Friedel system 10 has a plurality of longitudinally extending air manifolds 20 which are arranged in fluid connection with a compressed air source 22 located external to the heating chamber. The Examiner asserts that the air manifolds 20 are arranged parallel to the length of the longitudinal conveyor 18 and create a downward flow of heated air toward the conveyor 18 to convectively heat a sheet S of glass supported on the conveyor. The Examiner contends that convection heat provided by the air manifolds 20 supplements radiant heat provided by the electric resistance elements 16. The Examiner further asserts that air manifolds of Friedel comprise elongate tubes 26 which are at the ends.

The Examiner acknowledges that Friedel fails to disclose a plurality of nozzle means mounted on each air manifold and spaced along the length of the manifold. The Examiner therefore refers to another reference, Ritz, contending that Ritz provides manifolds 104, 106, 108, 110 which provide gas under pressure to a plurality of nozzles 24 which discharge gas in the direction of the glass 22. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Friedel and Ritz, and mount the nozzles of Ritz into the apertures of Friedel. The Examiner states that doing so would provide gas/air flow of variable pressure and improve the control of the forced air flow in the design of Friedel as disclosed by Ritz (col. 2, lines 24-57).

Applicant's present invention is not obvious over the cited combination of references relied upon by the Examiner. The independent claims, namely claim 1 and claim 23, have been amended. These claims more particularly point out that the compressed air as well as the oven air is combined in a nozzle in order to facilitate delivery of the air flow from the nozzle outlet to the work piece. Applicant's present invention is distinguishable in that the compressed air and the oven air mix within the nozzle means prior to exiting the outlet of the nozzle means. Applicant is unable to find in the cited references a disclosure or suggestion of the Applicant's present invention recited in claims 1 and 23. Applicant submits that the cited references taken alone, or even when combined fail to teach, suggest or disclose this novel feature of the Applicant's present invention. Accordingly, the invention, as claimed in the dependent claims 2-3, 6, 12-13, 15-16 and 18 should also be patentable over the cited references for the same reasons.

For the above reasons, Applicant's present invention is not obvious over the Friedel and Ritz references, and reconsideration and a withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, an appropriate extension of time to respond is respectfully requested.

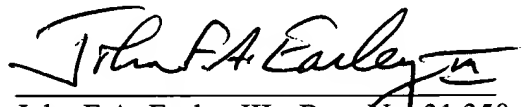
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Patent Office Deposit Account No. 05-0208.

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If further matters remain in connection with this matter, the Examiner is
invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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